

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : Yes, Sir.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : May I know the nature of such instructions?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : Sir, the whole question is under consideration and action will be taken very soon.

Import duty on Ceylon Copra.

335. *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been recently a reduction of the import duty on Ceylon copra and oil by the Imperial Government ; and

(b) what action did they take in the matter?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (a) Yes.

(b) This and other allied questions are under consideration and correspondence with the Government of India.

English High School, Parur.

336. *MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN (*Kunnathuad cum Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether they have closed down the Malayalam Higher Classes conducted in the English High School, Parur; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON : (a) Yes.

(b) The low strength did not justify the continuance of the classes.

Medical inspection of schools in Kottayam district.

337. *MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the conditions of service of the Assistant Surgeon in charge of medical inspection of schools in Kottayam district ;

(b) the number of schools he has to inspect ; and

(c) the number of times he has to visit those schools per year?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : (a) The appointment is governed by the Travancore Service Regulations.

(b) Medical inspection of school children is now carried on in the taluks of Karthikapalli, Ambalapuzha, Vaikom, Shertala, Thodupuzha, Muvattupuzha, Kunnathunad and Parur. The Assistant Surgeon has to see that the Sub-Assistant Surgeons do the work properly and for that purpose has to visit as many schools as possible.

(c) No instruction has been issued on this point.

Village Unions in the State.

338. *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Village Unions (constituted under the Village Unions Act) at work in the State at present ;

(b) the amount of grant paid to those institutions in 1115 M. E.; and

(c) the amount of money collected by those Unions?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : (a) 26.

(b) Rs. 12,500.

(c) Rs. 271-7-0.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI (*Karunagapalli cum Karthikapalli*): May I know how many of these Unions are working satisfactorily?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : As I said yesterday, the report on the administration of these Unions has not been received; but personally I know that two or three of them are working well.

Hardships of the Labourers in the Cashew Factories.

339. ***MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the labourers working in the cashew factories of the State are suffering hardships like insanitary conditions etc.; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, what steps do they take to relieve them of their distress?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : (a) Yes.

(b) The question of bringing the cashew Factories under the purview of the Factories Act is being considered by Government.

MR. KANNANTHODATH. JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know how long that has been under the consideration of Government?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : For nearly a year.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : May I know if Government are aware that in many of the factories there are no kilns for frying the cashewnuts and that the people residing in places surrounding the factories are put to great inconvenience on account of the smoke escaping from the cashewnuts that are being fried?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : It is only those who are within the premises that are inconvenienced.

Grant-bills to Private Schools.

340. ***MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether hardships are caused to teachers of the aided Malayalam primary schools in the State due to the delay in getting their grant-bills duly passed; and

(b) if so, what action they have taken in the matter?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON : (a) Some complaints have been received.

(b) The matter is receiving attention.

Sri Chitra Tirunal Road in the Parur taluk.

341. ***MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL** (*Kunnathnad cum Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in the construction of the Sri Chitra Tirunal Road in the Parur taluk.

MR. I. C. CHACKO : About three miles of the road have been opened by doing earth work and a few culverts have been completed in miles 1 and 2.